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NEWS RELEASE

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FRAUDULENT DOCUMENT PEDDLER INDICTED BY SACRAMENTO GRAND JURY

SACRAMENTO—United States Attorney McGregor W. Scott announced today that a federal grand jury returned a three-count indictment charging MIGUEL GONZALEZ RAMIREZ, 61, of Tulare, California, with the sale of fraudulent birth certificates, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1028.

This case is the product of an extensive six-month joint investigation by the Department of State, Diplomatic Security Service, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

According to Assistant United States Attorney Kyle Reardon, who is prosecuting the case, the indictment alleges that GONZALEZ, on three separate occasions between September 19, 2007, and March 2, 2008, sold fake New Mexico and Arizona birth certificates. GONZALEZ made these sales knowing the documents he was selling were false and were produced without lawful authority.

The maximum statutory penalty for a violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1028 is 15 years confinement, a \$250,000 fine, or both imprisonment and a fine, and a three-year term of supervised release. The actual sentence, however, will be determined at the discretion of the court after consideration of the Federal Sentencing Guidelines, which take into account a number of variables and any applicable statutory sentencing factors.

The charges are only allegations and the defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.

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